

ASTOR ACCEPTS SUE FOR DAMAGES.

Sued London Daily Mail for Libel, but Compromised in Court.

BIG TREE DINNER STORY.

Chief Justice Russell Tells Stories of Libels on Himself and All Ends Happily.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—In the Queen's Bench Division of Justice to-day before the Lord Chief Justice of England, Baron Russell, of Killowen, and a special jury, was heard the suit of William Waldorf Astor against the Daily Mail, of this city, to recover the sum of \$5,000 damages for a libel which "held him up to ridicule and contempt."

There was an imposing array of counsel on both sides. Sir Edward Clarke, Q. C., formerly Solicitor-General, counsel for the plaintiff, said the libel was published on October 18, and was headed "Astor's Strange Dinner Party." It declared, counsel continued, that, as the outcome of a wager of \$2,500 with General Owen Williams, Mr. Astor brought the trunk of a California redwood tree here and gave a dinner party at Cliveden around it. A fictitious list of guests, counsel further remarked, was published, and the entire details, except the mere fact that Mr. Astor brought the tree to England, was an effort of imagination, and Mr. Astor claimed he was held up to the public as "a foolish and ridiculous person."

An Apology Hinted At. Sir Edward Clarke also said Mr. Astor was an American gentleman of great wealth, "who had made this country his home, had a house on Carlton House Terrace and was the owner of the beautiful estate at Cliveden," and that soon after he settled in England "certain personal and of private paragraphs from time to time appeared about him."

Mr. Astor took the stand and confirmed Sir Edward Clarke's statements. He said that many of the guests mentioned were unknown to him and expressed the belief that some of them did not exist. The matter caused him great annoyance, but he was always willing to accept an apology.

The Lord Chief Justice asked if it was not possible for the paper to be given at that stage of the proceedings.

Right Hon. Edward Henry Carson, Q. C., formerly Solicitor-General for Ireland, on behalf of Alfred Charles Harcourt, proprietor of the Daily Mail and other papers, said his client was always ready and willing to accept an apology.

"Whether the matter published is a libel or not," the Lord Chief Justice remarked, "is a question for the jury to decide, but, surely, it is proper to apologize for giving annoyance."

An Apology Is Possible.

"My clients," said Mr. Carson, "while they do not admit the libel, are anxious not to publish anything which may cause annoyance."

"It cannot be said," replied the Lord Chief Justice, "that these personal paragraphs are not sometimes very annoying. This is the first of a very large number. One cannot fail to see that there is a growing feeling, perhaps copied from the press with which we have been acquainted than we are (laughter), of publishing personal paragraphs which are very annoying. A paragraph appears in a newspaper this morning regarding myself (laughter), erroneously stating that I am married, and my wife is a daughter of the Duke of Devonshire. I am not married, and my wife is not a daughter of the Duke of Devonshire. (Laughter.)"

Addressing Mr. Carson, the Chief Justice remarked: "I think your client ought to apologize for publishing the paragraph which has given annoyance to Mr. Astor. To this Mr. Carson replied: 'I adopt Your Lordship's suggestion absolutely. The proprietors of the Daily Mail wish me to say that they have no wish to give annoyance, though some people are annoyed by these things and others are not (laughter). They regret their error and wish to say to Mr. Astor and apologize for so doing.'"

The case then was settled. A juror was withdrawn and the proceedings came to an end.

Mr. Harcourt's Evening News, in reporting the case, says: "Mr. Astor is a cultured American who does us the honor to prefer our company to that of his own countrymen. His remembrance of the controversy, in the manner in which his native newspapers deal with him makes him, apparently, a highly censorious critic."

"The malice in the dinner party paragraph is so subtle as to escape any ordinary reader, but it did not escape Mr. Astor. According to Sir Edward Clarke, the paragraph was drawn from the paragraph which said that Mr. Astor allowed the information to be supplied to the public that he was a criminal, would, naturally, appear heinous to any one of Mr. Astor's nationality."

CUTTING DOWN SALARIES IN CUBA.

General Brooke Proposes to Reduce Both Places and Wages in Santiago Province.

Santiago de Cuba, Feb. 7.—Under orders from General Wood, Military Governor of the Department of Santiago, Captain Mendoza is preparing for Governor-General Brooke a statement regarding the salaries in the various departments of the civil service which the Governor-General proposes, according to instructions recently received from Havana, to reduce 20 per cent. This statement will show that already the civil salaries have been reduced more than 35 per cent from the figures paid under the Spanish regime. It will also point out that there has been a reduction of over 50 per cent in the number of men employed.

The Cuban claim that the present police force of the City of Havana, which is only four times the size of Santiago, costs more for maintenance than the entire Province of Santiago, including sanitation, public schools and police. They say that Havana, which in proportion to Santiago should have no more than 500 police, has under the present administration no fewer than 1,500 men.

Thirty new schools for children under seven years of age, to be conducted on the kindergarten plan, were opened to-day. Ten schools of the same kind are to be opened at San Luis and three at Guanabacoa.

Spain's Sad, Sad Red Book.

Madrid, Feb. 7.—The Government has issued a Red Book on the war with the United States. It is a bulky volume of 522 pages; but its contents are documents and communications already in the public and new have only historical interest.

It will pay you to read Journal "Want" ads. next Sunday—eleven words in as many ads. that don't belong there. These words make an every day maxim. \$100 in seven prizes. See page 12 this morning.

HELPING CBAS TO GET STARTED.

Colonial Board Plans Just Systems of Government for Them.

MAKES PERSONAL VISIT.

Equalizing Taxation and Getting Returns for Franchises the First Work.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The President has not yet selected any one to take the place of Mr. Curtis Guild, of Massachusetts, who, because of private business, declined an appointment as a member of the Colonial Board. General Robert P. Kennedy, who will be the head of the Board, and Major C. W. Watkins, are here, and to-day met in a preliminary way in a temporary office in the Lemon building.

Within ten days or a fortnight the Board will begin its investigation in the field, so immediately to Cuba. Its work will be exhaustive and take considerable time, its general policy being to make each of the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico self-sustaining, to systematize taxation, collection and distribution, and to institute modern improvements in every form, so as to put the West Indian possessions on a thorough modern and satisfactory basis. Its labors will begin at once in Cuba, to avoid the yellow fever or sickly season, and its work will be divided into two main branches, one dealing with the collection of taxes, and the other with the collection of franchises.

The first question the board will take up is the organization of a complete system of taxation in Cuba. There is no system now in force; no equalization of taxes. The plan will be to furnish both islands with equitable and just a system as can be arranged for the islands, to fall equitably on the people. The proceeds are to be distributed for purposes of education, improvement, police and matters of municipal affairs. Heretofore taxation has been based on income, and every man has been taxed on the same principle. In many cases taxes have been levied on claims that the income was not received, favoritism, etc.

The next general question will be recommendations for a system of granting franchises. The policy will be to have the people dealt with fairly in giving franchises, privileges and grants. Those who get these must pay a fair and just equivalent to the State and whatever profits accrue must go to Cuba's benefit.

The board will recommend the appointment of tax collectors and dividing up of the country into collection districts. These collectors shall have charge, under restrictions to be provided by the War Department. There is no intention to interfere with the municipal authorities, but to aid them in the proper collection and distribution of their own taxes and more especially to relieve the people of oppressive and unfair taxes."

GENERAL GOMEZ GOING TO HAVANA.

The Cuban Commander Will at Last Make His Entry into the Islands' Capital.

Havana, Feb. 7.—Senator Proctor has received a despatch from Maximilian Gomez, saying that he will leave Remedios to-morrow for Havana, travelling by way of Sagua and Matanzas City, and arriving here on Monday.

Mr. Proctor will leave to-morrow morning for Matanzas, where he will confer with General Gomez, proceeding thence to Cienfuegos.

General Gomez has not communicated to Governor-General Brooke any suggestion regarding the plan for the payment of the Cuban troops, but the details of the arrangement will be settled by his arrival. Nothing has been done in the matter thus far.

HONORS FOR GARCIA IN CUBA'S CAPITAL.

Remains of the Dead General to Lie in State, Guarded by His Followers.

Havana, Feb. 7.—The United States gunboat Nashville, bearing the body of the late General Calixto Garcia, is expected early to-morrow. The remains will be received by the City Council and will lie in the Session Room of the Council, on public view, with a guard of Cuban soldiers.

Mac-General Ludlow, Governor of the Department of Havana, has granted permission, in a letter to Mayor Lacoste, to 500 armed Cubans to enter the city as a guard of honor to take personal part in the demonstration, if possible.

HARD BLOW FOR MIKE DADY.

Brooklyn Politician Will Lose His Million-Dollar Contract in Havana.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The contract of Michael Dady, of New York, for a sanitary system in Havana, entered into with the Spanish authorities in the last days of their occupancy, undoubtedly will be cancelled by the Colonial Board. The contract involves some millions of dollars and General Ludlow reported adversely on it.

The contract has attracted considerable interest and has been a theme of discussion at Cabinet sessions. It is now before the Colonial Board, and it is probable that body has not yet passed on the contract there is little doubt of its sustaining General Ludlow's adverse report.

Tetanus Kills Soldier in Cuba.

Havana, Feb. 7.—Death report, February 4, at Santiago: Private Alonso Park, Company F, Eighth Illinois, tetanus; Corporal Robert Sparks, Company E, Eighth Illinois, typhoid.

The commanding general at Porto Rico reports that there were no deaths between January 27 and February 1.

GOOD WILL TO U. S. MARKS PARLIAMENT'S OPENING.

Lord Salisbury and His Lieutenants Express Much Sympathy.

POLICY TOWARD CHINA.

Great Britain Seeks No New Territory in That Part of the East.

HE DECLINES TO TELL MORE.

The Premier Regrets That He Has No Foreign Relations Committee to Give His Secrets.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—There was the usual competition among the members of Parliament to-day to be the first to take a seat in the House of Commons on the re-opening of Parliament. Mr. Robert Ascroft, Conservative member for Oldham, beat the record by arriving at the house at 12:45 a. m. Mr. John Cunningham Macdonald, Conservative member of Parliament for the Rotherhithe Division of Southwark, arrived at 1 a. m. Others arrived during the night.

A majority of both houses assembled just before 2 p. m., when the Black Rod, General Sir Michael Biddulph, came from the House of Lords and, with the usual ceremony, summoned the Commons to the House of Lords for the purpose of hearing the Queen's speech read by the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Halsbury.

The Queen's speech made the usual reference to the peace conference, which between Great Britain and foreign countries dealt with the recent operations in the Sudan and with the affairs in Crete, expressing the hope that the Cretan question is in a fair way of solution by the appointment of Prince George of Greece as High Commissioner of the powers in Crete.

Peace and Anarchists. The speech referred to the invitation to attend the Cretan peace conference, which has been accepted, and contained a very sympathetic reference to the assassination of the Emperor of Austria. It mentioned the Anarchist conspiracy in Rome and the probable necessity for the alteration of the law of Great Britain with respect to Anarchists.

The speech expressed great concern at the fact that the plague continues in certain localities of India, paying tribute to the Duke of Devonshire for his measures to exterminate it and to the devotion of the officials of the colony.

The Duke of Devonshire complimented upon its patriotism, as demonstrated in the recent vote for naval defence, and there were very sympathetic allusions to the cyclone disaster in the West Indies.

Finally, the speech announced that bills will be introduced for the promotion of secondary education.

Must Be Ready for War. So far as the Cretan speech was concerned, Lord Salisbury said no one could doubt the purity and humanity of the Emperor's motives. "I should heartily rejoice," he continued, "if the conference achieved a humble aim and if by the steady use of the principle of arbitration we might be able to diminish a number of the causes by which war is produced. If, by humane legislation, we could also diminish the horrors of war, we would render an immeasurable service to humanity."

"Meanwhile, we must follow the example of other nations and be prepared for war. I do not believe this is imminent, but the causes of war still subsist, and while doing our best in the blessed mission of peace, we must maintain the position of security which past generations have given us and which we hope to keep."

Compact with Germany. Lord Salisbury remarked that he frequently envied a nation possessing a Committee on Foreign Relations, like the United States—a committee which could secretly receive information from Ministers and only too glad to give it to Great Britain, without that feature of parliamentary government it would be impossible for him to do so.

No Designs on China. The Premier, Lord Salisbury, followed Lord Kimberley and referred at length to China. He said the policy of Her Majesty's Government did not contemplate the acquisition of territory in China or the displacement of the Chinese Empire.

The destiny of China, Lord Salisbury added, was impossible to forecast as it was to reveal what was occurring on a certain island within a certain palace at Peking. All that Her Majesty's Government was concerned with at present was to see that the treaties are fully observed, that the interests of British subjects are safeguarded, and that nothing is done by either China or any other nation to compromise their rights.

Referring to the Sudan, the Premier said that Great Britain held dominion by the title arising from the fact that the Sudan formed part of the territories of Egypt, and also by the fact that the Sudan and more especially understood title of conquest. Any revival of the claims of titles which have been abandoned by historical precedent or international law.

Mr. Bageot said he was pleased to notice that "the bonds of mutual interest and kinship between this country and America have by recent events been drawn closer."

An Alliance for Progress. The session of Commons was resumed at 4 o'clock. The House was crowded, among those present being Lieutenant J. C. Colwell, the United States Naval Attaché here, and Mrs. Colwell. After the new members had taken the customary oath, the Speaker, the Right Hon. William Court Gully, read the Queen's speech, and Mr. Joseph Bageot, Conservative member for South Westmorland, moved the address in reply to the speech.

Neither speech contained any points of special interest, though the Premier, in dealing with the relations between Great Britain and France, Mr. Balfour remarking that there was no reason why the present peaceful relations should not be permanent.

After several other speeches the House of Commons adjourned.

The firm of Laird Bros., long one of the finest shipbuilding firms in England, was founded about fifty years ago by John Laird, father of William Laird. It is best known in this country in connection with the construction of the Confederate war vessel Alabama. At the time of the breaking out of our civil war the Messrs. Laird, as the concern was then known, were the foremost shipbuilders of the world, and the Alabama, which was completed in August, 1862, was the most famous and successful vessel built by them. She was known as "200" before she was christened by the Confederates to the firm was known as the "Laird Brothers' Shipbuilding Works."

John Laird, the eldest son of the founder of the concern, died a little over a year ago, after conducting the business with his two brothers for nearly thirty years. The late Mr. William Laird, like his brother and father, had a world-wide reputation as an expert on the construction of the Alabama, including the construction of the Great Oak and other first-class battleships, and an enormous fleet of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers. They were the two steamships of the Columbia for the Hamburg-American Line.

HENRY DISGUSTED WITH PORTO RICO POLITICS.

Military Governor Delays Appointing Heads of Departments While Factions Wrangle.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 7.—As yet General Henry, Governor of Porto Rico, has not appointed the heads of the four departments—State, Justice, Finance and Interior—which he has substituted for the dissolved insular cabinet. He favors two Liberal aspirants, one Radical and one Independent. The Liberals and Radicals are making great efforts to counter the appointments. General Henry is not a little disgusted with Porto Rico politics. There was a public demonstration to-day to celebrate the ratification of the peace treaty. The circulars distributed described the affair as a "great day in the history of the incorporation of Porto Rico among the United States."

BOLIVIAN INDIANS IN A GENERAL REVOLT.

Reports Reach Lima of Murder and Plunder and of the National Army in Retreat.

Lima, Peru, Feb. 7.—Advices from Bolivia confirm the report of the retreat of President Alonso and his army to Oruro, a hundred miles northwest of Sucre. The Indians, it is added, are rising everywhere, and are murdering and plundering.

There are also rumors of complications between Bolivia and Chile.

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ALL ABOARD FOR THE TASK OF KRAVITSKY.

"First Call for Dinner" as the Train Leaves Krasnoyarsk.

CHANGE FOR PORT ARTHUR

The Scenic Route Across Siberia Includes a Ferry Trip on Lake Baikal.

Special Cable to the Journal. (Copyright, 1899, by the New York Journal and Advertiser.)

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 7.—Rapid progress is now being made on the great Government railway across Siberia, and regular traffic operations are being carried on over many sections.

Two changes have been made at the far eastern end. Instead of running the line around the southern shore of the huge Lake Baikal, trains will be carried across the lake on a powerful steam ferry. The other change is that a branch line to Port Arthur will leave the main line at Tchita, 400 miles east of Lake Baikal.

Trains are now run as far as Irkutsk, near Lake Baikal, although the section between Krasnoyarsk, the principal station in Central Siberia, and Irkutsk is not quite finished. No bridges have been built across the rivers Oka and Yenisei, where ferries will probably be used for a long time.

From Krasnoyarsk, a modern "corridor" with restaurant car and other luxuries of railroad travel, starts daily for Tomsk. From Tomsk to Irkutsk there is a regular train, and the water route between these two points is already sufficient to pay working expenses of the division.

"These dangerous extent from the fact that the specific gravity of the boat must be either exactly or nearly equal to the specific gravity of the water. The result is that if an indentation was caused in the skin of the vessel, its specific gravity would, of course, become actually greater than that of the water. It would sink to the bottom. Another danger, which arises chiefly in shallow water, is that the vessel is apt to get the slightest disorder of the steering gear, to get out of the horizontal line, and in that case in less than a minute it might stick its head in the mud. This actually occurred a few years ago at Tilbury, when Lord Charles Beresford was nearly killed."

"A third danger is that of collision with rocks, fish or pieces of wreckage. If a large day in the history of the incorporation of Porto Rico among the United States."

"In my belief they could be of value only against stationary vessels. In the case of a vessel in motion, sufficiently accurate guiding would be impossible. As far as stationary vessels are concerned, submarine torpedobombs which can be guided by electric wire from the shore would prove quite effective."

"With our present knowledge, boats of the French type are both dangerous and ineffective, and I would advise the more money the French spend upon them the better for the rest."

ATLANTIC FISHERIES BOTH COMMISSION. Newfoundland's Representative Sends Word That He Cannot Leave Washington for Another Month.

St. John's, N. F., Feb. 7.—An early adjournment of the Joint High Commission at Washington is not expected here. The Colonial Legislature was prorogued to-day until March 2, owing to letters having been received from Sir Charles Winter, Newfoundland's representative, intimating that he is not likely to return to the colony before the end of this month. It is gathered from the letters that the more